



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,701	12/17/2001	Kyeong Jin Kim	8733.479.00	6382

30827 7590 01/08/2004

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

RUDE, TIMOTHY L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/015,701	Applicant(s) KIM, KYEONG JIN	
	Examiner Timothy L Rude	Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,8,16 and 21-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,9-15,17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 20011217. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I, Sub-Species A, E, and J (claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, and 17-20) in Paper No. 20031007 is acknowledged.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 6, [0021] says that the step difference between the dielectric frame and the sealant is obtained so that the dielectric frame does not hinder the liquid crystal from being injected. However, it is clear from later in the same paragraph that the liquid crystal is dispensed onto the first substrate prior to attaching the second substrate which has the dielectric frame (as opposed to injected). Also, Page 5, [0017] says dispensing is done under a structure having a dielectric frame. How is that relevant? How and why does one suspend the second substrate having said dielectric frame above the dispenser while dispensing liquid crystal material onto the first substrate?

Appropriate correction is required. New matter may be an issue.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1 says the height difference between the dielectric frame and the sealant is

formed and then the substrates are attached. However, page 12, Table I, teaches the after mated height differences and their associated effects which supports dependent claims 10, 11, and 20. Page 11, [0051] simply states that primary and secondary cell gaps are formed without any teaching as to sealant height prior to mating and without any teaching as to how said gaps are established to be those of Table I. Appropriate correction is required. New matter may be an issue.

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: The recitation "double sealant structure" is not adequately supported in the Specification or drawings. It is not clear what Applicant means by the only reference in the Specification, Page 10 [0050]. For examination purposes "double sealant structure" will be interpreted as anything pertaining to sealant structure that is double. Appropriate correction is required. New matter may be an issue.

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: The recitation "hole shape" is not clear. A hole may have most any shape. For examination purposes "slit shape or hole shape" will be interpreted as any shape of hole or slit. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 19 is objected to because it depends from claim 1 which has no phase difference film. For examination purposes claim 19 (like claim 18) will be interpreted as

dependent upon claim 17, which has a phase difference film. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification (page 3, [0050]) and the drawings (Figures 3A and 3B, without dimensions) are not considered adequate to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention comprising an L-shape transistor and achieve the claimed improvement in aperture ratio with reduced parasitic capacitance between the gate line and the drain electrode while maintaining satisfactory performance in all other respects.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2871

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 7, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh et al (Oh) USPAT 6,130,729 in view of Liu et al (Liu) USPAT 6,573,965 B1 and further in view of Von Gutfeld et al (Von Gutfeld) USPAT 6,055,035.

As to claims 1, 7, and 10, Ohe discloses (Abstract and entire patent) a method of forming a liquid crystal display device comprising: forming an L-shaped thin film transistor (Figure 3A, col. 6, lines 32-37) and a pixel electrode, 39, on a first substrate.

FIG. 3A

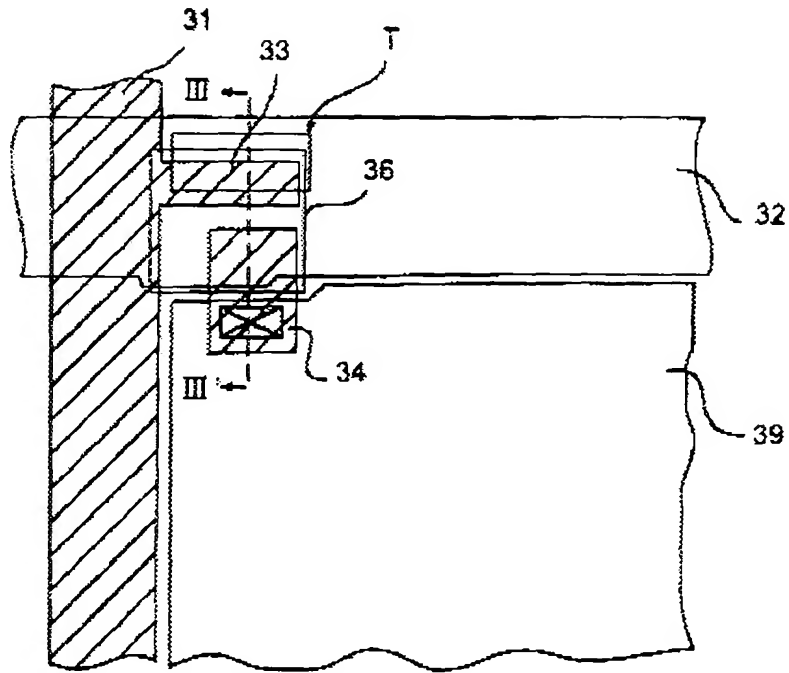
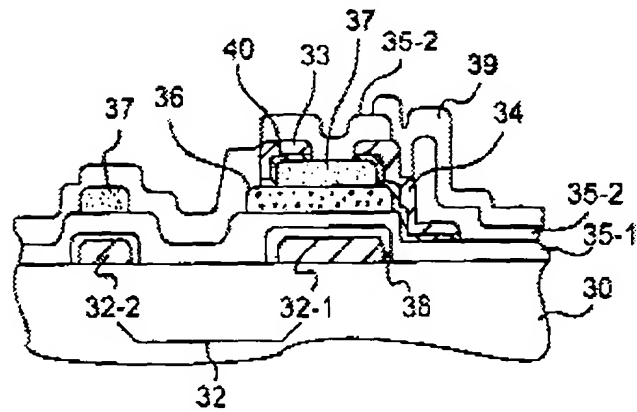


FIG. 3B



One does not explicitly disclose forming a dielectric frame having a first height and a sealant having a second height on a second substrate, the first height of the dielectric frame being different from the second height of the sealant; dispensing liquid crystal on the first substrate; and attaching the first and second substrates to each other.

Liu teaches (Abstract and entire patent) forming bumps, 311 and 409 (Applicant's dielectric frame) on both substrates (Figure 5, col. 5, lines 45-57, and col. 5, lines 35-44) having a first height and a sealant having a second height (not shown) such that the sealant is taller than the dielectric frame as is evidenced by the gap between the dielectric frames and the opposed substrate (Figure 5) to comprise a multi-domain display with wide viewing angle (col. 2, lines 36-46).

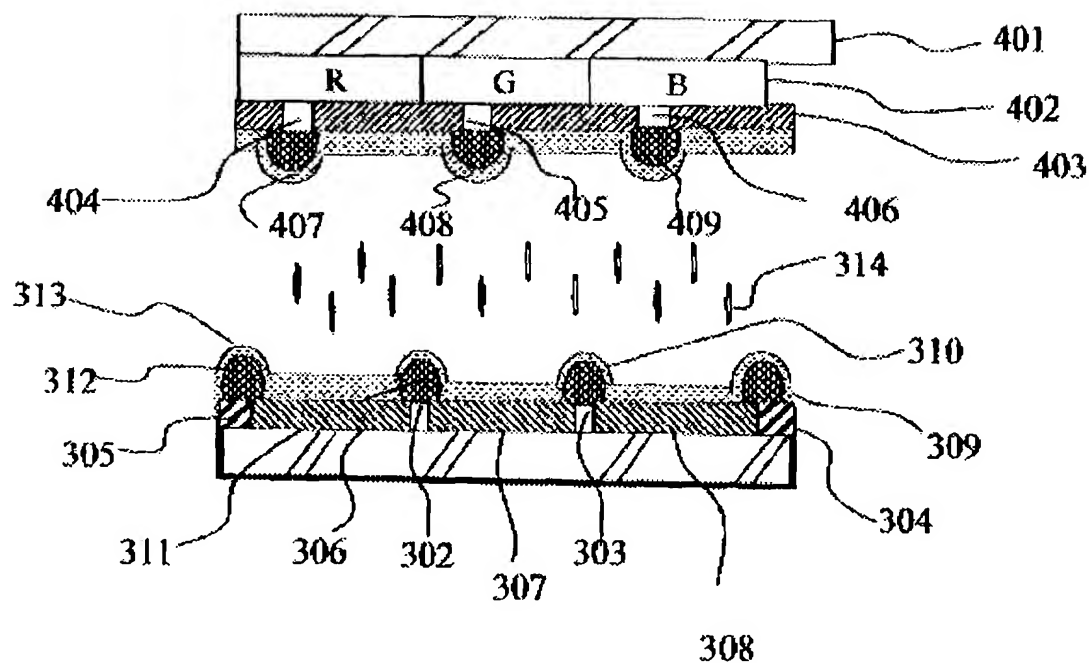


FIG. 5

Von Gutfeld teaches dispensing liquid crystal on the first substrate (Abstract and entire patent); and attaching the first and second substrates to each other to provide a simplified and more efficient method for filling an unassembled LCD panel that is less costly (col. 2, lines 25-34).

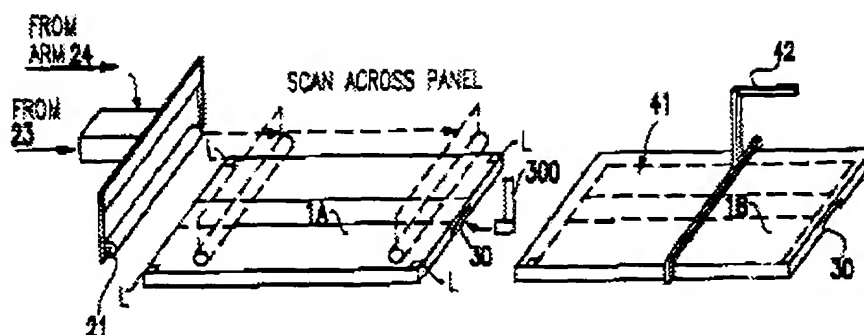


FIG.3

FIG.4

Liu is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add a dielectric frame on both substrates having a first height and a sealant having a second height such that the sealant is taller than the dielectric frame to comprise a multi-domain display with wide viewing angle.

Von Gutfeld is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to dispense liquid crystal on the first substrate; and attach the first and second substrates to each other to provide a simplified and more efficient method for filling an unassembled LCD panel that is less costly.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of Oh with the dielectric frame on both substrates having a first height and a sealant having a second height such that the sealant is taller than the dielectric frame of Liu to comprise a multi-domain display with wide viewing angle and to dispense liquid crystal on the first

substrate; and attach the first and second substrates to each other per Von Gutfeld to provide a simplified and more efficient method for filling an unassembled LCD panel that is less costly.

As to claim 2, Von Gutfeld, as combined above, teaches that the sealant includes a material hardened by ultraviolet ray (col. 4, lines 1-4).

As to claim 3, Von Gutfeld, as combined above, teaches that the sealant includes a double sealant structure in that there is a seal on the right and a seal on the left. Von Gutfeld teaches that the sealant includes a double sealant structure in that there is a seal on the top and a seal on the bottom. Also, please note that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. For example additional redundant seal borders inside or outside a first seal would be considered mere duplication of parts, not a patentably distinct species, unless unexpected results were obtained.

As to claim 4 Liu, as combined above, teaches a method further comprising forming electric field inducing slits, 302 and 303 (Applicant's windows), in the pixel electrode, 306~308.

As to claim 5, Liu, as combined above, teaches in Figure 2 a method wherein the electric field inducing window has a slit shape or a hole shape.

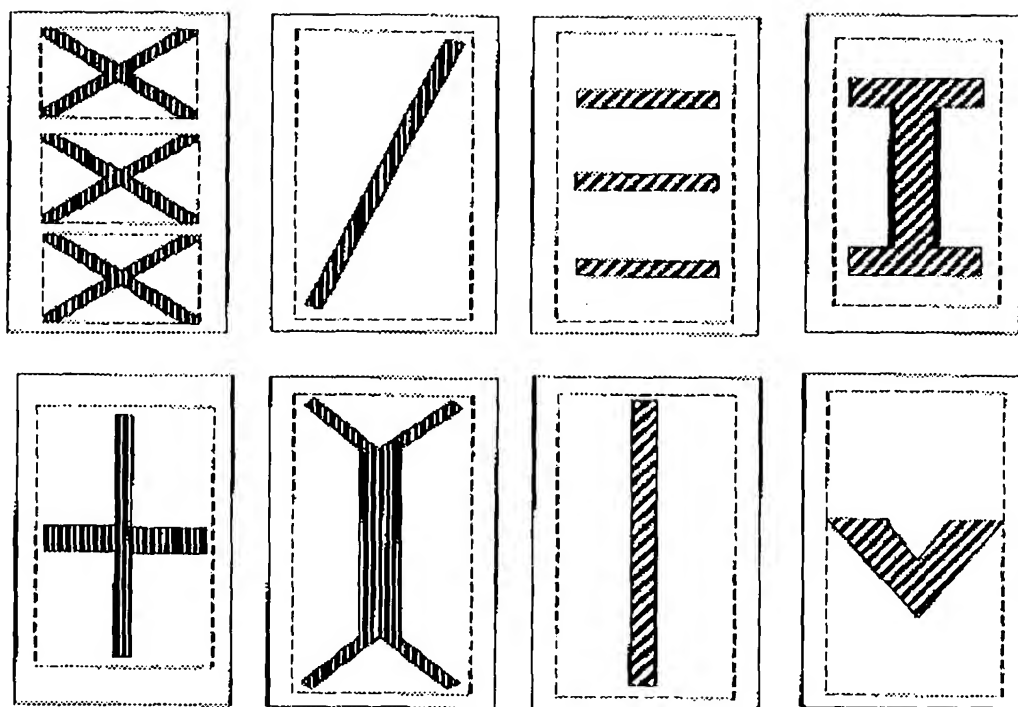


FIG. 2

As to claim 9, Liu, as combined above, teaches Prior Art in Figure 1 that shows dielectric frames drive the liquid crystal in various directions.

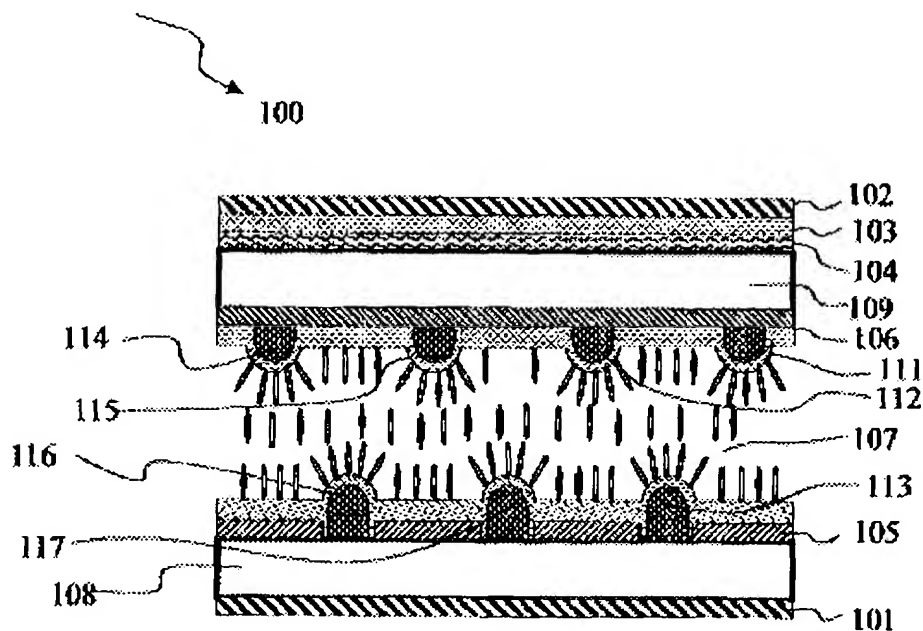


FIG. 1 (Prior Art)

As to claim 12, Oh, as combined above, discloses a method further comprising forming a common electrode on the second substrate (required element, not shown).

As to claim 13, Liu, as combined above, teaches a method wherein the dielectric frame, 409, is formed on the common electrode, 403 (Figure 5).

As to claim 14, Liu, as combined above, teaches a method further comprising forming an alignment layer, 313 and 407, on the first and second substrates (Figure 5).

6. Claims 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld, as applied to claims above, in view of Kishimoto et al (Kishimoto) USPAT 6,515,718 B1.

As to claims 11 and 20, Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld disclose the method above.

Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld do not explicitly disclose specific heights of dielectric structures with respect to seal heights wherein a height difference between the sealant and the dielectric frame is more than 1 μm or wherein the first height is a range of 1-2 μm and the second height is in a range of 5-8 μm .

Please note the motivations for establishing cell gap (and correspondingly seal height) were well known in the art at the time the claimed invention was made and include optimization of voltage required, retarder value of liquid crystal layer, and control of liquid crystal mode or configuration.

Kishimoto discloses the motivation to optimize the height of a dielectric structure is to account for the relative dielectric constants of the respective components (col. 18, lines 21-23). In other words, the height is made sufficient to achieve the desired dielectric effect given the relative dielectric strength of the material used.

Kishimoto is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to optimize the results effective variables of relative dielectric frame height and seal height to achieve the desired dielectric effect given the relative dielectric strength of the material used.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld with the specific heights of dielectric structures with respect to seal heights wherein a height difference between the sealant and the dielectric frame is more than 1 μm or wherein the first height is a range of 1-2 μm and the second height is in a range of 5-8 μm of Kishimoto to achieve the desired dielectric effect given the relative dielectric strength of the material used (MPEP 2144.05, II, B).

7. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld, as applied to claims above, in view of Tanaka et al (Tanaka) USPAT 6,603,528 B1.

As to claim 15, Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld disclose the method of claim 14.

Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld do not explicitly disclose a method wherein the alignment layer is selected from the group consisting of polyimide, polyamide, polyvinyl alcohol, polyamic acid, and silicon oxide.

Tanaka teaches the use of polyimide as an art recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming an alignment film for liquid crystal displays (col. 9, lines 5-21).

Tanaka is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to use polyimide as an art recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming an alignment film for liquid crystal displays.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld with the polyimide alignment layer of Tanaka as an art recognized material suitable for the intended purpose of forming an alignment film for liquid crystal displays (MPEP 2144.07).

8. Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld, as applied to claims above, in view of Kim et al (Kim) USPAT 6,100,953.

As to claims 17-19, Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld disclose the method of claim 14.

Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld do not explicitly disclose a method comprising formation of a phase difference film, negative uniaxial, or negative biaxial.

Kim teaches the use of negative uniaxial and negative biaxial phase compensation films (Applicant's phase difference films) as suitable means of improving viewing angle performance (col. 5, line 66, through col. 6, line 12).

Kim is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystals would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to add negative uniaxial and negative biaxial phase difference films as suitable means of improving viewing angle performance.

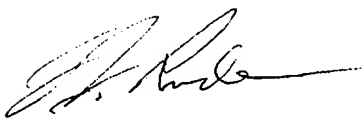
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of liquid crystals at the time the invention was made to modify the LCD of Oh, Liu, and Von Gutfeld with the negative uniaxial and negative biaxial phase difference films of Kim as suitable means of improving viewing angle performance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (703) 305-0418. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.



TLR

Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2871



TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER